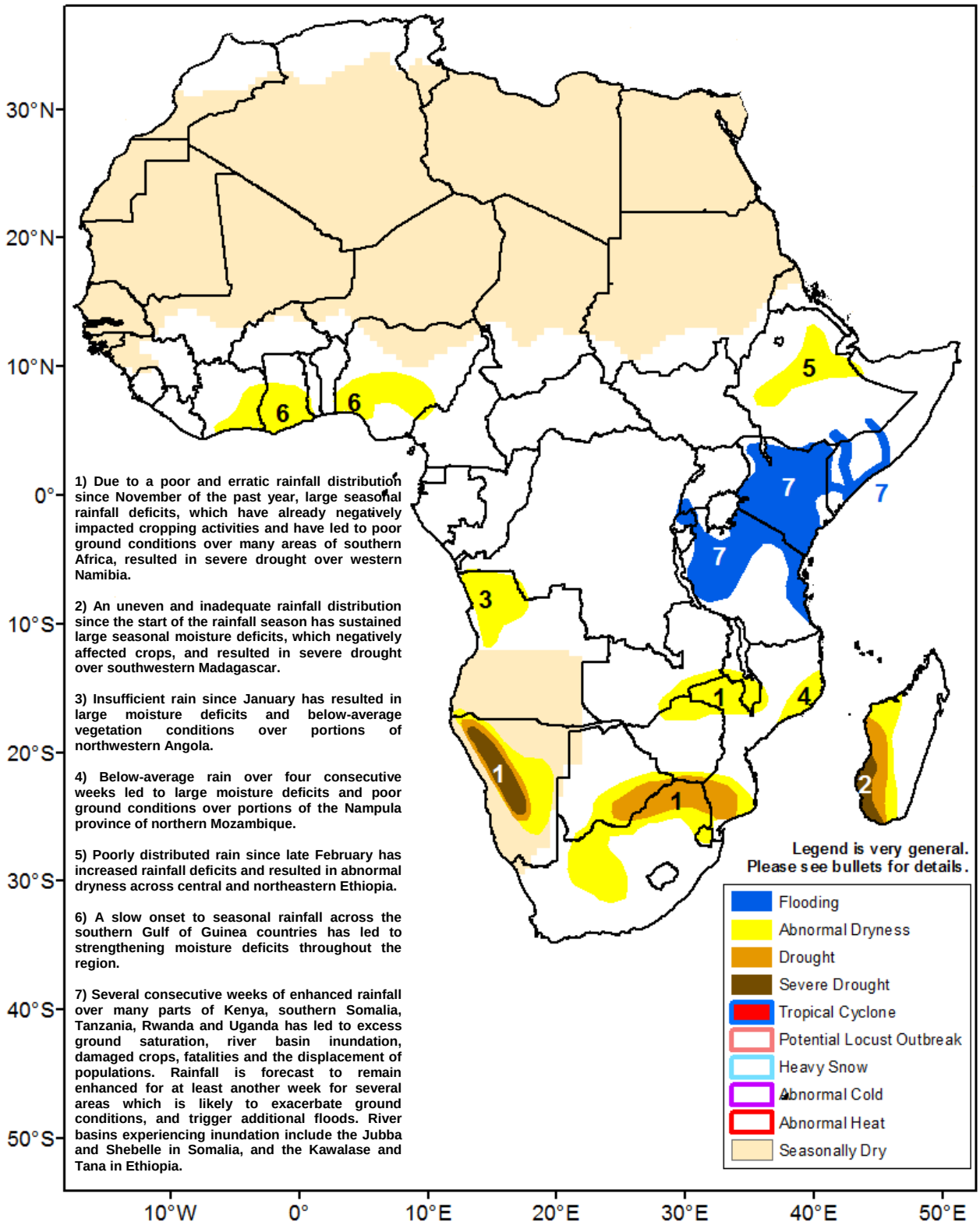
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
April 26 – May 2, 2018

- **Enhanced, flood inducing rains continue throughout many areas in the Greater Horn during April.**



1) Due to a poor and erratic rainfall distribution since November of the past year, large seasonal rainfall deficits, which have already negatively impacted cropping activities and have led to poor ground conditions over many areas of southern Africa, resulted in severe drought over western Namibia.

2) An uneven and inadequate rainfall distribution since the start of the rainfall season has sustained large seasonal moisture deficits, which negatively affected crops, and resulted in severe drought over southwestern Madagascar.

3) Insufficient rain since January has resulted in large moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola.

4) Below-average rain over four consecutive weeks led to large moisture deficits and poor ground conditions over portions of the Nampula province of northern Mozambique.

5) Poorly distributed rain since late February has increased rainfall deficits and resulted in abnormal dryness across central and northeastern Ethiopia.

6) A slow onset to seasonal rainfall across the southern Gulf of Guinea countries has led to strengthening moisture deficits throughout the region.

7) Several consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall over many parts of Kenya, southern Somalia, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda has led to excess ground saturation, river basin inundation, damaged crops, fatalities and the displacement of populations. Rainfall is forecast to remain enhanced for at least another week for several areas which is likely to exacerbate ground conditions, and trigger additional floods. River basins experiencing inundation include the Jubba and Shebelle in Somalia, and the Kawalase and Tana in Ethiopia.

Belg-producing regions of Ethiopia received near-average quantities of rain this past week

During the last 7 days, widespread torrential seasonal rainfall remained over the Greater Horn of Africa. Light to moderate rains continued over northern Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia. To the south, widely distributed heavy rainfall was received throughout southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and coastal Tanzania, with local areas receiving more than 150mm (**Figure 1**). The Heaviest rains caused flooding issues and fatalities in many areas of Kenya and along the Jubba and Shebelle river basins. Towards the west, a favorable distribution of rains was observed in South Sudan.

April brought near average amounts of rain to many Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia that had experienced a pronounced delay in seasonal rainfall, and rapidly developing moisture shortages during the month of March. While the enhanced precipitation during April has helped to mitigate anomalous dryness in some areas, there are still many areas in the northern Oromia, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Somali that remain well below average since early March (**Figure 2**). The largest moisture deficits remain near Dire Dawa over the Shinile zone of Ethiopia, where many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation for period. The return of suppressed precipitation would be likely to adversely impact ground conditions and cropping activities, as there is not much opportunity for moisture recovery before rains begin their cessation in May over the region.

Further south, extremely large seasonal moisture surpluses (100-300+mm) continue to encompass much of Kenya and northern Tanzania due to heavy rainfall during March and April. The majority of areas in in Southern Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania have already received there average seasonal rainfall through the end of May according to the SPP product.

Southern Africa is drying out rapidly as the monsoon season draws to a close there. Many parts of the regions experienced a strong final few weeks, receiving near to above normal rainfall. However areas that include northwestern Angola and Madagascar still finish the season with significant 30-day rainfall deficits.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest the continuation of heavy rainfall over several parts of East Africa. 7-day accumulations in excess of 50mm, and locally higher, are expected in southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and northern Tanzania. Typical late April rainfall is expected to help continue to alleviate seasonal dryness in Belg-producing areas.

Delayed onset of rains observed across southern Gulf of Guinea countries.

For several consecutive weeks, light and poorly distributed rainfall amounts have been observed over southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and southwestern Nigeria according to satellite rainfall estimates. A few portions of southern Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire received improved rainfall last week. Since early March, seasonal moisture deficits have increased, leaving many local areas with half of their normally accumulated rainfall, which is expected to increase the risk for adverse ground impacts unfavorable for cropping activities.

During the next week, near or slightly below-average rain is forecast for the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: April 18 – April 24, 2018

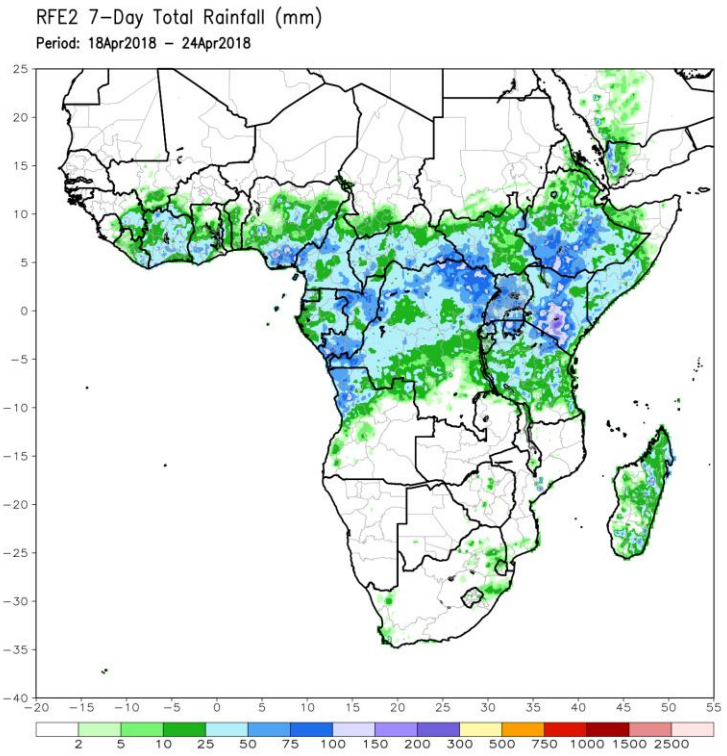


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: March 26 – April 24, 2018

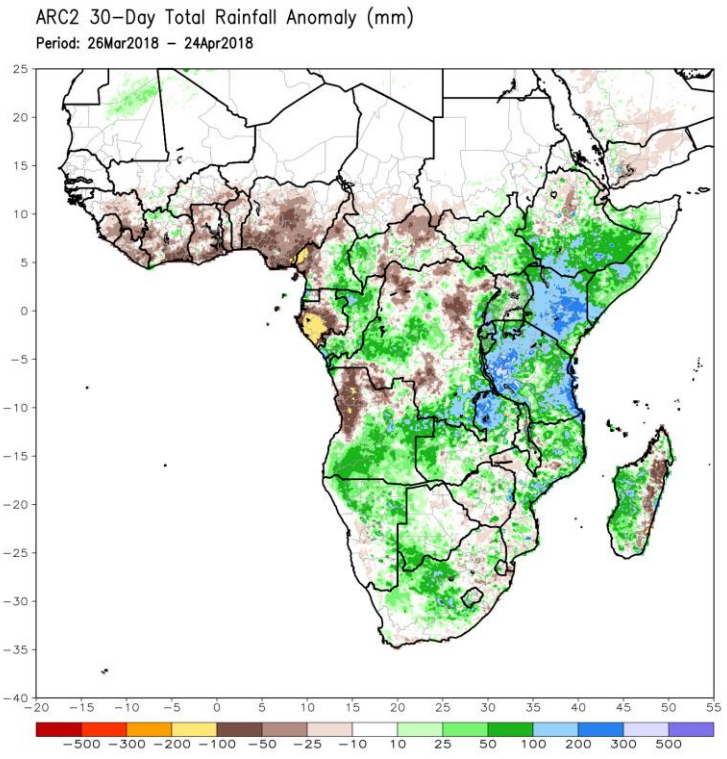


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.